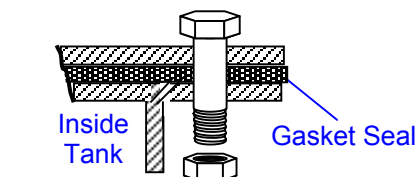
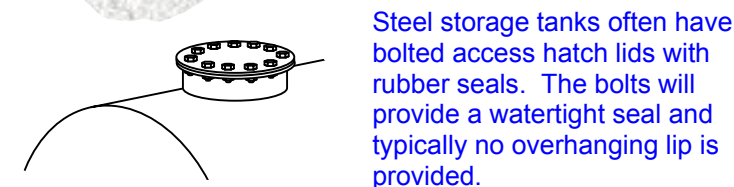
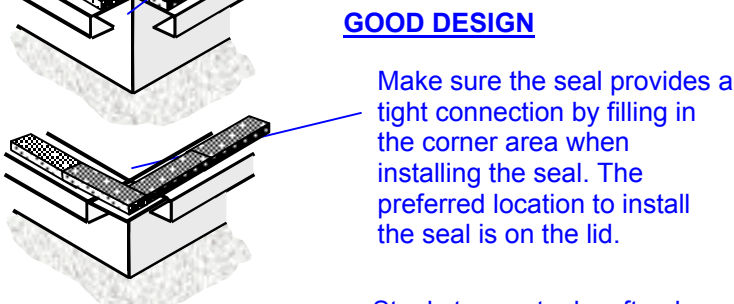
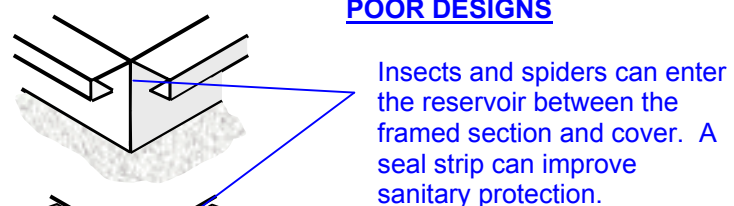
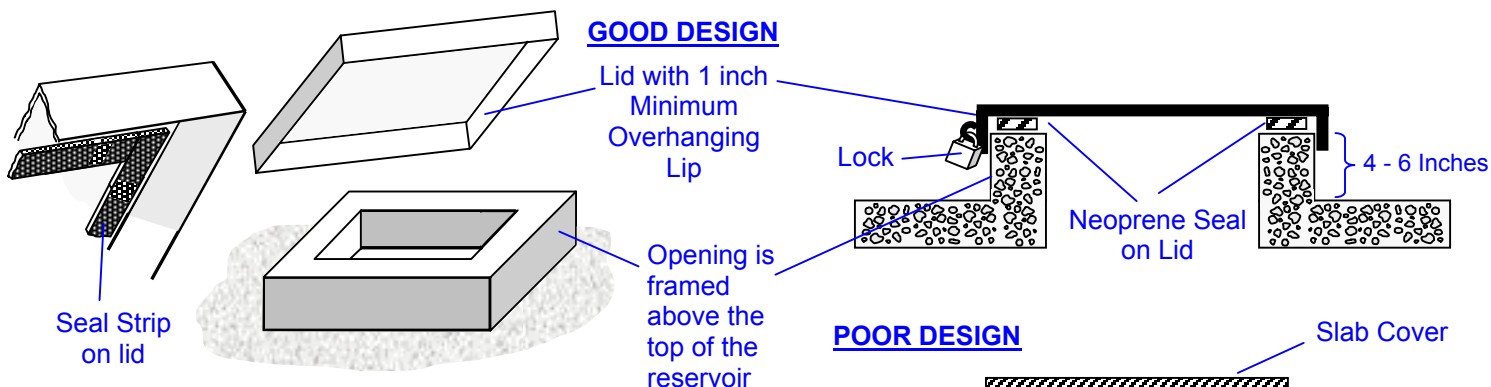


# Drinking Water Tech Tips: Sanitary Protection of Reservoirs - Hatches



**Stored Water Sanitary Protection:** Reservoirs need to have adequate sanitary protection to prevent the water supply from being contaminated. **Access hatches** need to be as watertight as possible to exclude bats, insects, birds, and other animals. It is also necessary to install locking mechanisms to prevent unauthorized access and to keep them locked at all times. The edge or framed portion of the opening must extend at least 4 inches and preferably 6 inches above the surrounding area to prevent surface water from entering the reservoir. The lid should be sturdy, of durable construction, overlap the framed portion a minimum of 1 inch, and form a watertight seal. Bats are able to squeeze into a space that is only ¼ inch wide and will leave small mouse-like feces on surfaces. Cast in place concrete lids do not have a raised curb around the opening that will keep surface runoff from entering the reservoir. Also, rough concrete surfaces often do not seal tight enough to keep out insects. Access hatches of buried tanks must be designed to keep out dirt, debris, and surface runoff.

## POOR DESIGN



Access hatches must be constructed of durable material. Wood will deteriorate over time when exposed to the high humidity conditions present. Unprotected steel will rust and corrode.



For more information, contact your Office of Drinking Water Regional Office. They are open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have an after-hours emergency, call 1-877-481-4901.

**Eastern Regional Office, 509-456-3115**

Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima counties.

**Northwest Regional Office, 253-395-6750**

Island, King, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties.

**Southwest Regional Office, 360-664-0768**

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